

Hazardous Materials Technician (EPA 165.15)

Course Description

This course provides emergency response personnel, primarily firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical services personnel, with the information and skills needed to recognize, evaluate, and control an incident involving the release or potential release of hazardous materials. It is intended for members of hazardous materials response teams.

The focus of the course is on recognizing and evaluating a hazardous materials incident, organizing the response team, protecting response personnel, identifying and using response resources, implementing basic control measures, refining decision-making skills, and protecting the public. Firefighting techniques are not part of the course.

Topics that are discussed include chemical and physical properties of hazardous materials, toxicology, recognition and identification of hazardous materials, direct-reading instruments, standard operating procedures, personnel protection and safety, and sources of information.

Instructional methods used are lectures, class problem-solving sessions, and exercises. Emphasis is on the hands-on use of equipment to practically apply lecture information.

Class members will participate in two simulations designed to apply and test the lessons learned during the week. Participants will wear fully encapsulating suits and chemical splash gear.

Course Objectives

- Select the appropriate personal protective equipment for responding to an incident involving hazardous materials.
- Use combustible gas detectors, oxygen meters, and detector tubes to evaluate the hazards present at a hazardous materials incident.
- Use confinement and containment techniques to control the release of a hazardous material.
- Identify the importance of an incident command system for effectively managing an incident involving hazardous materials.
- Develop procedures for the decontamination of emergency response personnel.
- Use size-up techniques to develop strategies and select the appropriate tactics for mitigating hazardous material incidents.

Course Length

- 40 hours

Prerequisites

Individuals who are not participating in a medical surveillance program should consult their physician prior to attending this course.

Target Audience/Discipline

- Fire Service
- Hazardous materials team members
- Law enforcement
- Public Works
- EMS
- Volunteer groups
- Emergency management